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REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS

One of the most sumptuous and valuable art works of the year is "Great Masters," by John La Farge, issued from the press of McClure, Phillips & Co. This volume comprises seven essays reprinted in expanded form from a magazine in which they first appeared; and the artists considered are Michael Angelo, Rembrandt, Raphael, Rubens, Valesquez, Dürer, and Hokusai.

The peculiar value of the book consists in the manner in which the author has treated his subjects. He has written for a large public which needs biographical data, but none the less for one which demands careful deductions and sound conclusions. As Mr. La Farge points out in his preface, we are perhaps too apt to look upon the great artist of the past as a free agent, early possessed of all the power and development acquired by long work against outside pressure, and to think of him as imposing the form of his ideas upon an easy world. In other words, we throw back into the early position of the great man the image of his full development, forgetting that the artist had to die to obtain the authority he holds to-day.

Hence the author has treated each of his subjects in the light of his environment, of his antecedents, as a factor molded by and at the same time shaping the art conditions of his day. He drops all but well-authenticated anecdotes, wastes little time in estimates of character, adhered to no arbitrary standard of criticism, but considers each man's works on the theory that they form the geography of his art. The illustrations are profuse and exceptionally well done.

* The current edition of the "American Art Annual," edited by Florence N. Levy, and published by the American Art Annual, is by all odds the most complete and correct issue of this important publication. The work contains full reports of art sales, official lists of art organizations, directories of artists and art workers, and in fact almost every class of information desired by the art student. Every effort has been made to bring the records up to date, and to maintain as high a standard of accuracy as possible. Too high praise cannot be given to the editor for her conscientious efforts to produce a handbook at once comprehensive and thoroughly authoritative.



BOOKS RECEIVED

"Menschen und Kunst der Italienischen Renaissance," by Robert Saitschick. Ernst Hofmann & Co., 2 vols. 20.60 m.

"Mezzotints," by Cyril Davenport. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$6.75 net.

"Great Masters," by John La Farge. McClure, Phillips & Co. \$5 net.